

[<<Back](#)

## Bay Area Reps Slam Bush Tax Plan

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SAN JOSE (BCN) -- A group of Bay Area Congressional representatives issued a scathing review of President Bush's economic policies on the day of his visit to Santa Clara to pitch his \$550 billion tax cut.

U.S. Reps. Mike Honda, D-San Jose, Zoe Lofgren, D-San Jose, Anna Eshoo, D-Atherton, Pete Stark, D-Fremont, and Sam Farr, D-Carmel, are urging the president to bring "real relief" to the Bay Area by pursuing a targeted, fiscally responsible economic stimulus plan to jump start the economy and put people back to work immediately.

"President Bush says his proposed multi-billion dollar giveaway to the wealthiest of Americans will boost the economy. But more than 400 economists, including Alan Greenspan, chair of the Federal Reserve, do not believe the fuzzy math. They say this economic course would actually hurt the economy," Honda said.

"I urge the president to be fiscally responsible and pursue an immediate, targeted stimulus program to get people back to work. We cannot leave our unemployed Americans and their families embedded in a world of pain, despair and hopelessness."

"This is just too little, too late. Here in California, we have been losing jobs at an alarming rate -- and the president comes here to stump for his irresponsible tax cut?" Farr asked, incredulously.

"Californians should know his tax break proposal does nothing to encourage the creation of new jobs, it is merely a new variation of the same theme. It didn't work for Reagan, it didn't work for Bush I, and it hasn't worked for Bush II. How many times will history have to repeat itself before we realize this type of economic policy just doesn't work?"

Lofgren took the opportunity of the president's visit to speak to him directly through the representatives' written release.

"Mr. President, California is hurting, Santa Clara County is hurting, and San Jose is hurting. There were lots of places you could have gone today to get a true sense of the stagnant economic conditions in California," she said.

"But from inside the tinted windows of your limousine, I doubt you saw the unemployed, the empty office parks, and the 'Going Out of Business' signs in Silicon Valley. Your same old tired tax schemes are not going to put Californians back to work. We deserve and demand better."

Eshoo took a slightly different tact in criticizing the Commander in Chief.

"We welcome President Bush to Silicon Valley and while he's here, he should explain why saddling future generations with a \$12 trillion national debt is sound economic policy," she said.

"Nearly a quarter of a million Californians have lost their jobs since the president took office, with not one getting a dime from the Bush Administration's irresponsible tax cuts."

"Any good economist would tell you that President Bush is peddling a big falsehood," added Stark, a ranking member of the House Joint Economic Committee.

"Leveraging a huge tax cut for the rich against future economic growth won't pay off. It won't stimulate the economy and it certainly won't replace the 2.3 million jobs that have been lost since President Bush took office. It is simply false political rhetoric to disguise throwing money at those who need it least at the expense of those who are out of work, kids who are losing out on quality education and states like California that are being forced to cut vital programs."

President Bush landed at Moffett Field at 9 a.m. is speaking at United Defense Industries in Santa Clara.

The Bay Area Congressional representatives aren't the only ones protesting the president today. A group of anti-war activists have gathered in Santa Clara to march to United Defense to speak out against the president's foreign policy.

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